

SPECIAL
PROJECTS
ISSUE

point
3
November 1988

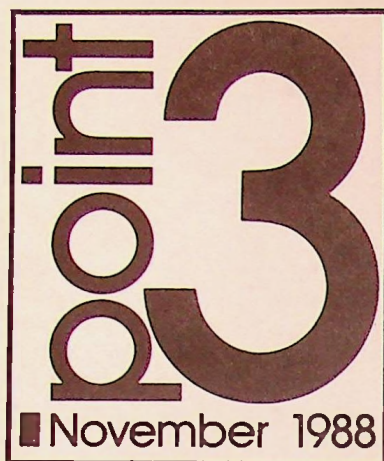
25 years
100
projects
TOCH



price 20p

The magazine of
TOCH





The magazine of **TOC H**

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is the group – at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood – which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P. B. 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

25 Years On

1988 has marked the 25th year of Toc H projects. It has been a time of celebration and a chance to take stock. There has been a great sense of achievement, but also some anxiety about the future. Although the good that projects do is undoubted, although it is clear that they are one of the movement's greatest assets, it is increasingly obvious that we are not using them to their full potential. Changes are due in the projects programme itself. But it is also apparent that some problems – such as the lack of follow-up and the fact that further involvement of project volunteers in Toc H is often limited – stem not from projects themselves but from the structure of the movement as a whole.

Projects are traditionally the preserve of the young and the single. There have always been exceptions, and a number of pieces in this month's *Point 3* question the assumption that this is their only 'market'. Joan Nicholas' 'gentle project' was set up for the older member. John Dunwell's suggestions for family involvement would answer some of the needs of the ex-volunteers now bringing up children, who wonder where they fit into Toc H and whether it is still interested in them. The idea of 'specialising' may appear to contradict the traditional thinking about the role of projects in bringing together a mixture of people. But in reality, most of our projects are already specialist. Geared up to the teenager or student, their format is unintentionally exclusive. Contacts with the Asian and Caribbean communities have demonstrated that if Toc H is to have any impact on British society *as a whole* (and not just on the white population) some at least of its projects will have to depart from the current norm. Some may have to accept large numbers from one place, since the idea of going away for two weeks with a group of strangers on your own is alien to certain cultures. Some may have to make different accommodation arrangements, to limit the contact between the sexes. It is not easy to know how far Toc H should expect adaptability from others and how far it should adapt itself. But it is essential that projects, which arose out of the needs

of the 1960s, evolve to meet the needs of the 1990s. Their attempts to draw in people who are unemployed, and to attract those of different ages and backgrounds, are a response to today's Britain and today's Toc H.

Yet Toc H as a whole has not followed suit. The frequent complaint that projects bring in few new members is acknowledging only half the truth. Membership is declining because society is changing. Toc H has not yet decided how to deal with those changes. The nature of voluntary movements has altered: many are now professionally run charities supported by membership subscription. Society is more transient and more mobile – membership of a local branch may be of little appeal to a youngster who is constantly moving from town to town. The more settled may feel there are plenty of other activities on offer if Toc H does not happen to have an outpost near them. More and more people feel that membership makes no difference, because it adds nothing to the Toc H work in which they are already involved.

Yet the decision making bodies of Toc H are membership run. The reluctance of so many to sign on the dotted line means that fewer people are available to man the Council and the Executive. Toc H's structure was designed for a mass membership movement: that membership has now shrunk to some 6000, yet the structure remains. As a result, there is an imbalance of representation, and the commitment and energy of large numbers of young people is untapped. Of those who *do* join, few will choose to sit on the committees which steer the movement – the hours demanded are too great, the type of work unappealing. We ask too much – and so we get nothing. The energy and enthusiasm for Toc H that is being generated in abundance by projects is being allowed to go to waste, or to find a new outlet outside the movement. Initiatives are needed, and soon, to enable those who *want* to do more with Toc H after projects or alongside them, to do so.

Judith Rice

Editor: Judith Rice
Editorial Assistant: Sue Biggerstaff
Designer: Sybil A. Chick

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point 3 is available from Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover Bucks HP22 6BT. (Telephone: 0296 623911).

Price: 20p per copy or £2 per year subscription. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

Cover

The 25 Years of Projects logo
(Design: Simon Gunn)

Pulling Together

Projects are one of the most exciting areas of Toc H work and the development programme kicked off with enthusiasm last year. But there have been difficulties, as Sue Biggerstaff reports.

Among the most recent additions to the Toc H staff are two new Project Development Officers, Gary Gummer and Julia Norman. Gary has recently gained a Diploma in Youth & Community Work and prior to that worked part-time in two youth clubs in inner city Cardiff. Meanwhile, Julia has done voluntary work with NACRO and the Citizens' Advice Bureau in West Yorkshire. Their arrival has been greeted with some relief by two people in particular — Norah Anderson and Mick Tierney — for whom 1988 has not been a very easy year.

When Mick and Norah came on to the staff last autumn, they made up half of a 4-person team which, put very simply, was given the task of raising the profile of Toc H projects both within and outside the movement. The team split into two pairs: Norah and her 'partner' Paul Brannen were assigned to the north of the country whilst Mick and Judi Edwards concentrated on the south. Of the four, Judi was the only one with any in depth knowledge of Toc H, having been its National Projects Coordinator for several years. The new strategy was largely her brainchild and the final emergence of a team of Project Development Officers marked the fruition of many years of planning and preparation on her part.

So this time last year, it was all systems go . . . but as is so often the case, the theory ran into practical difficulties. For the best part of this year, the project development team has consisted of just three people: Judi had to pull out early on due to ill health, then came Paul's decision last Easter to move into pastures new. The team was down to just two members, both operating at different ends of the country. Therefore the past



Julia Norman is working alongside Norah Anderson in the north of the country.



Photo: Sue Biggerstaff

Before joining the project development team, Norah was involved in Ucaudit — the Toc H sponsored initiative which gives skilled training to unemployed people in Newcastle.

year has not been full of resounding successes — some even claim it's been a total failure, but Mick and Norah are quick to disagree. *'When Paul and I first took up our posts, our prime objective was to get a better mix of volunteers on projects,'* explained Norah. *'so we contacted various minority groups and set out to encourage them to get involved.'* The initiative had limited success but it was a useful exercise for seeing why projects don't appeal to everybody. *'We were able to show Toc H people that if we're to succeed in attracting a mix of volunteers, changes must be made.'* More recently, Norah has helped in setting up two new projects: the Silver Shenanigan, which was a travelling street theatre performing at various towns in the North East and a project involving people from Webb House and Ucaudit (see page 12): *'It was really satisfying to put something into action rather than just seeing ideas on paper.'*

'the wider Toc H membership is reluctant to get involved'

Meanwhile, back in April, Mick and Paul spent a few days in Northern Ireland looking into the feasibility of organising projects over there. Although the trip went well and valuable contacts were made, progress has since been hindered by Paul's departure. Nevertheless, Mick is determined to see it through. Towards the end of the year, he and Gary will go across — this time for a longer period — to lay the groundwork for a project next summer on the outskirts of Belfast. For Mick, so much of the last 12 months has been spent going to Caribbean Youth

Continued overleaf

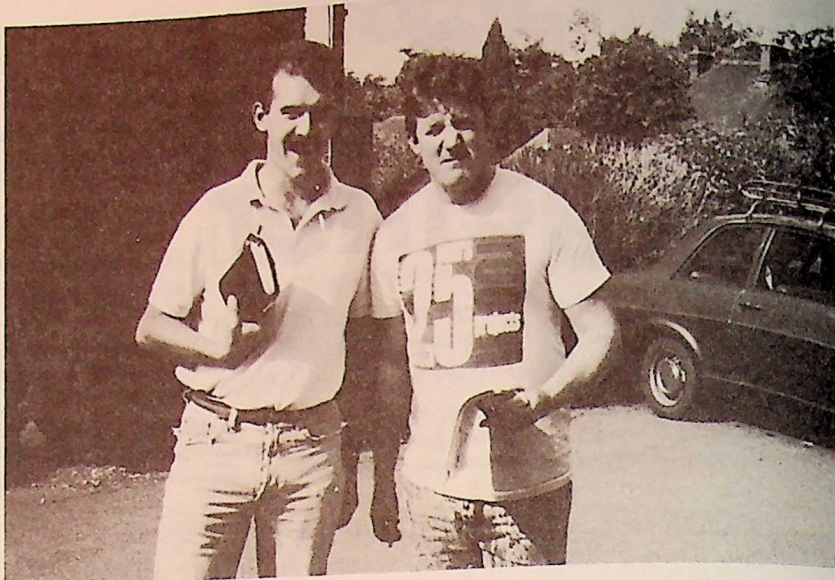


Photo: Judith Rice

Gary Gummer (l) and Mick Tierney (r). Mick first encountered Toc H through the summer playschemes in Germany.

Centres, unemployment drop-ins, advice centres and youth clubs, trying to recruit different sorts of people. Project volunteers tend to be white and middle class and a greater mixture is hoped for. Unfortunately, the response so far has been minimal. *'The thing is you can't expect to get them interested after just one visit – you have to go back and keep pushing it. The key is to get them on your side. But I've found that even when you've gained their acceptance, the wider Toc H membership is reluctant to get involved.'*

Although the overall picture is not entirely negative, it does appear that project development has run up against major difficulties. I asked what might be the reason for this; is it solely because two of the team left in the early stages? *'That certainly added to the problems, says Norah, and I think it's a real shame that one of those who left had been involved in the project scene for a long time.'* Mick agrees: *'After Judi left there was no established Toc H person on the team. We were regarded as three newcomers, not steeped in the movement's ethos. Therefore we lacked credibility.'* As they see it, the team also lacked moral and active support right from the beginning and then, when things started to go wrong, they were left to flounder. Additionally, they feel that people made unfair assumptions about the team's capabilities.

'when we arrived on the scene we were identified as a threat'

'We were evaluated in very different ways,' says Norah, 'and there was obviously no clear understanding of what we were there to do.' Not long after her appointment, for instance, someone suggested that if there weren't more projects in the 1988 booklet, the team will have failed. *'But I didn't see my job in that way; that wasn't my perception at all.'* So what was her perception? *'To improve the projects that were already happening, if that's possible, and to try and meet realistic needs in the community.'* She also saw a need to get a better mixture and to improve the follow-up after projects. *'I think that quality is more important than having vast quantities of projects lined up. Hence our emphasis on leadership training.'* Mick certainly feels that one of the team's most significant achievements this year has been to oversee the new project guidelines. This has involved the National Projects sub-Committee but, as he points out, *'its members are busy people with other commitments. Luckily, the PDOs have been available to do the necessary research.'*

When I asked Mick and Norah how they felt the concept of project development has gone down in Toc H as a whole, the answer was quick – *'not very well'*. Both expressed doubts

about how much thought was given prior to their appointment or how they stood in relation to the existing staff. Mick: *'There have been serious misunderstandings as to what our job is about. The field staff have tended to see development as their responsibility. Therefore when we arrived on the scene, we were identified as a threat.'* Whilst there have been few approaches from established staff to work with the project development team, Mick admits that he hasn't really gone out of his way to work with them either. *'I had difficulty in summoning up the courage to "break into" the regions by myself. It's much easier when there's two of you.'* Similarly Norah hopes to form a strong partnership with Julia, who will be based in Huddersfield. Once she and Gary have completed their training, the team will be ready to start afresh and promote itself more successfully.

'As I see it, the only way forward is to approach the regions and offer our services,' says Mick. 'I know what I can do but I also need to hear what they want to do. There's no way I want to tread on anybody's toes, but unless the field staff let us in to work alongside them, the whole strategy will have been a waste of time.' Norah agrees that the priority must now be to work with the regions. *'Although this time last year the two pairs were working independently of each other, we're now starting to formulate some sort of consistency in our approach; to work on ideas together. It would be wrong for the team to split up again and only pursue separate ventures. We've also come to realise that people are interested in what we're doing. By ensuring that they're made aware of what's happening, we'll be able to answer some of their questions and so bolster our image as a team.'* Communications will certainly benefit now that Sandra Tuck is established as the National Projects Coordinator in London. Her main aim is to keep records of volunteers, useful contacts in fundraising etc, which will go to provide an efficient information service.

In short, project development must not be regarded as a separate entity. If it is to succeed, it needs to be integrated more fully into mainstream Toc H. *'And if people disagree with what's going on,' says Norah, 'we need to be told directly. Constructive criticism is always helpful; automatic dismissal of our work – with no explanation – gets us nowhere.'* Mick would like to feel that if nothing else, the team has made the movement more aware of what projects are all about. *'We're now prepared to forget the things that have gone wrong. We just want to secure people's cooperation because only then will the strategy succeed. If doors are closed in our faces, there's not much we can do. We've now reached a point where everybody must get together and pool their resources. I feel it's now up to the staff to lead their regions into a new working partnership.'*

Following on

John Dickson explains why effective follow-up after projects is so important to the future of Toc H.

Now that we are celebrating 25 years of Toc H projects, it is a good time to look at all of our work with young people. I see projects as a short, sharp, and very intense introduction to Toc H; but how many young people have Toc H left high and dry after that? How many people have been on a project and seen something which made them very excited, only to return to their home area, find there is nothing and be left feeling flat? I know of the Toc H branches that span all ages from 16 to 80, but they are the exception. Often the reality is a single sex branch of elderly men and women, who have long since stopped doing much in the name of Toc H. They do provide a very useful service, but that is mainly inward looking, a great fellowship based on past history together. Young groups are few and far between, and there are whole areas in the country, even regions, where no young people are organised in the name of Toc H.

Some may argue that little can be done about this situation. That is not the case, and we have more control than we like to admit. People came into projects by receiving a copy of the Toc H booklet. By carefully controlling where the booklet goes, we can to a great extent control where the project applications come from. This means that we can highlight a particular area and get a good response on projects, leading hopefully to a new group. And that is not the only way that a new Toc H unit can start.

"young people's groups can sprout, grow and wither in a short space of time"

Schools have been the foundation of many young groups. It has happened often enough to show how attractive Toc H can be to a group of young people. Here the simple explanation of what Toc H is about, usually coupled with a challenge, leads to people giving it a try. I believe that Toc H is attractive to young people; but that we lack the faith to put that to the test. The problem with school groups is that they are closed and tend to fail because of that. Toc H is about mixture, but the members of one school group know each other, and often find it difficult to bring in new blood from outside. In addition, since we tend to be working with sixth formers, each year you may lose a good proportion, often your leaders. In fact, that is always a problem with young people's groups, — they can sprout, grow, and wither all in a short space of time. Does that not make the whole thing a waste of time and effort?

No, of course it does not. Toc H is not just about 50 years

faithful service. A year or two and the age of 16 to 18 can be of real worth. If the Toc H experience is of true value, it ought to be given away. If we have a way of living life that we really believe in, surely we should share that?

"often Toc H transforms young people's lives"

But what happens if what you value is trampled on? Well, in my experience it rarely is. When it is, it is sometimes because the kind of Toc H that is being rejected is not really one that we would recognise anyway. If Toc H has been badly presented and explained, that is our fault, not theirs. Such problems are far outweighed by the number of times I have listened to young people tell me what Toc H is all about. Often it transforms young people's lives. Toc H is about education in it's widest sense. We don't teach good morals, we help people to find their own, to discover what they most value in their own life.

However, I still feel that we lose contact with far too many people. In my experience young groups have not "grown up" into older branches. That is partly because people like me have failed to provide new challenges for the young people involved; but it may also be a trend that we just cannot fight. I remember an organiser for St John's Ambulance who told me that he had a great deal of difficulty recruiting young people, and those he did get tended to drift away within a few years. It may be that no voluntary organisation can hold the young married couples who are just starting a family. Could it be that voluntary work is the province of the young and the old?

If that is the case we cannot just accept that. There is no reason why we cannot keep in contact with these young marrieds. They are still interested in Toc H, and are often prepared to stay as members and to make a financial contribution.

So my model for involvement in Toc H would start with activities in projects and youth groups. This would be followed by a "sleeping" phase when they would be starting and bringing up their families. At this point they would be encouraged to stay members, but not be expected to be active. They could then be "re-activated" later on when their children are older. What do you think?

■ John Dickson is a Toc H Development Officer in the South Wales and West Midlands Region.

The East Devon District Children's Project gave 12 London school girls their first taste of the West Country. This was the 18th holiday to be arranged in Exmouth and was run with the help of volunteers from England, Germany, Spain and Turkey. One of the leaders, Stephen Farr, is seen here showing two children how friendly cows can be!



Photo: Bill Humphries



Photo: Alan Brooke

Rachel Cobbold enjoys a joke with Kerry Welden on the 'Care and Share Family Holiday' at Hengrave Hall, Suffolk.



Photo: Jonathan Bach

Children and volunteers on the Token Project, run by the North London and South Herts District.

A Family Project

John Dunwell argues that projects shouldn't be the preserve of 'singles'.

Why aren't more families involved in Toc H? This question was asked by five young families who recently spent two days at the Colsterdale Centre, considering what Toc H could and should do to bring more families into the movement. Projects in particular tend to have an image of being for young single people. Parents who do get involved in them often worry that, because they have to attend to their own children, they can't give a full 100% to the project. Additionally there are the attitudes of others to contend with; people without their own children can be intolerant, leading to ill-feeling.

Practical barriers to families being involved vary. Regular meetings have implications for baby-sitting and projects demand so much preparation, that some ask *is it worth it?* Then there are concerns like sleeping arrangements: if a young child wakes up during the night in a dormitory, the chances are that everyone will be disturbed.

The aim of this weekend was to look for positive ways of increasing family involvement in Toc H. Simple though it may seem, perhaps more families would take part if only they were asked. Often the recruiting base of Toc H concentrates on schools, colleges and youth groups. An effort should be made to identify those projects which may be particularly suited to including families, and then invite friends along. We frequently claim that we work *with* people rather than *for* them, yet how often, when organising a project for children, do we invite parents to join in? The group felt that families can often

A 'Gentle' Project

Projects are not just for the young volunteer, as Joan Nicholas reports.

Older members may talk about projects but few have any idea of how they are conceived, prepared and executed. I decided that the situation should be remedied, especially in this, the 25th year of projects! Therefore, I devised a 'gentle' project aimed at allowing the older member to see the process through from start to finish.

But where do you start? Which comes first — the project or the volunteers? It was felt that taking handicapped children on holiday in spartan conditions would be too daunting for our 'first timers', so John Dickson (Development Officer) and I devised two weekend projects and put them to the district. One was a conservation weekend at Hanbury Hall and the other was a Play Day for under-privileged children. The conservation weekend won hands down.

What was the next step? Chris Underwood, an experienced project leader, agreed to join us and with his help we overcame the panic of planning rotas, duties, size of groups, timetables, transport, menus and shopping. Three of us went to Hanbury Hall to see the lie of the land and were warmly welcomed by Oliver Lane, the administrator, who was politely amused at the idea of mature volunteers. We were agreeably surprised at the standard of accommodation and were confident our members would survive the two days.



Enjoying ice cream in a nearby village.



Parents and children relax in the living room at Colsterdale.

Photos: Pete Claxton

integrate well into projects: in one experience, the responsibility given to a mentally handicapped girl to look after a volunteer's young child, was very stimulating for her. Similarly, witnessing the harsh disadvantage of children on a residential holiday was a salutary lesson to another volunteer's son.

I'm sure we all have address books containing details of past Toc H contacts. One way to re-involve them might be a social gathering, which could be repeated on a regular basis. Regions

could undertake to arrange a couple of social outings each year, to a country park or the coast for example, as a way of maintaining contact. We should not, however, go to the other extreme and exclude singles; such events should encourage everyone to come along, 'family' referring to Toc H as a whole, irrespective of our individual status.

■ *John Dunwell is a Development Officer for Toc H, based at the Costerdale Centre.*

So the groundwork was done and on Friday 6th May, eleven volunteers arrived at base camp . . . and mutiny immediately threatened when our first job was pointed out to us. It was the clearing of brambles from around laurel bushes. Quickly sensing the mood of the group, Mr Lane introduced us to our second job which was the clearing of a neglected private garden where the grape house had once stood. On Saturday morning we sallied forth and our efforts revealed a previously over-grown retaining wall around an oblong patch where the vines had once been cultivated. We cleaned the wall, cleared the nettles, removed wire netting and dug over the area to be cultivated. On Sunday morning, we weeded the flower beds in front of the Hall, as this was the first weekend that the house was open to the public. In the afternoon we held Home-going Prayers and it was fitting that these took place on the patch where we had worked so hard and achieved so much together.

Was it worthwhile? The unanimous opinion would be "yes" because we all enjoyed it, but as we were all known to each other we didn't have to make any efforts to break down barriers. Even so, a certain amount of tolerance was needed which has strengthened our relationships. Judging by the amount of interest shown by non-members in the project before the event, I would say that projects such as this would be good vehicles for encouraging other people to sample Toc H — and really put us to the test. The few older members in the movement who are well versed in running projects might well ask what all the fuss is about. Not a lot, but at least 11 members know more about what the word 'project' implies, which must be a step forward when thinking of Toc H tomorrow.

■ *Joan Nicholas is a member of the Central Executive Committee.*



Joan Nicholas (front row, second from left) with some of her 'first timers'.

starting point

Projects

Toc H began with young people away from home, thrown together with an unlikely mixture of different people, faced with a demanding challenge and forced to overcome the differences to achieve a common task. For our earliest members this was the situation in Belgium during the First World War. For me, and for countless others in the last 25 years, this was the situation on our first Toc H project.

Each project which Toc H sets up aims to encourage people to learn about themselves and each other by getting to know one another and by working together. So too does a healthy Toc H branch, group or friendship circle. What distinguishes the project method, however, is its residential character. By getting people to live together for a few days the process of building relationships is hastened and intensified. This can highlight tensions which may lie hidden in a non-residential situation and it may also produce a real closeness and sense of inter-dependence.

*'much of the movement is wrapped
in a culture of niceness rather than love'*

In the best of our projects volunteers draw strength from one another and develop friendships which do not depend on always agreeing with each other. Many acknowledge that they have gained confidence from their experience and have felt genuinely able to 'be themselves'. This can only happen in an atmosphere where each person is truly welcomed and accepted, and where real care and open honesty are the norms. Such an atmosphere is crucial and it brings us to the core of the project experience

A 'project' for Toc H has come to mean a short residential event for a small group of people, usually involving some kind of service to the community. Over the last 25 years the movement has run over a thousand of these projects and involved over 10,000 people as volunteers on a range of tasks including shared holidays for able-bodied and disabled people, children's playschemes, work with gipsy travellers and homeless people and a variety of manual jobs. Why do we run these projects? In the latest in our *Starting Point* series *Philip Douch* looks at the purpose of projects, traces their origins and makes suggestions for future involvements.

and the heart of Toc H. If we care and feel cared for, and if we know that it is safe to be honest, care and honesty actually become one and the same thing – love.

Toc H sprinkles a lot of good words around about love but much of the movement is cosily wrapped in a culture of 'niceness' rather than love. Niceness always protects, whereas love does a lot of challenging. All too often we are so careful not to hurt people that we don't actually help them. This is a particular disease of the polite middle classes (to which I and the majority of Toc H members belong) and it is reinforced by a shallow understanding of Christianity. Toc H is not about being nice at all; it is about love. Accordingly, a successful project is one where people learn and grow from their shared experience of love.

The impetus for project work came in the early 1960s from the vision of a few committed individuals rather than as part of any national Toc H policy. Drawing on the experience of residential Schools Weeks, noting that young men were already interested in helping at established Toc H camps and acknowledging that the end of national service stopped the throwing together of young people from very different backgrounds, the Schools Committee of the time set up experimental manual task projects at Spurn Point, Morden Bog, Bovey Tracey and Liverpool in 1962/3. The success of these events, which deliberately brought together a range of volunteers including public school-boys and young offenders, prompted the appointment of five members of paid projects staff.

Similar developments took place in the early 1960s in the Toc H Women's Association and cooperation between male and female staff led to mixed projects becoming a significant factor in the move towards integrating the separate male and female Toc H organisations in 1971.



1962: School boys on a Toc H Schools Work project doing drainage work to reclaim Morden Bog.



1968: A scene from the Surrey Camp for underprivileged boys.

Photo: Pat Thomas

Quite quickly Toc H projects began offering not just physical tasks but a wide variety of work with other people, particularly those who were disadvantaged or disabled in some way. Projects were new, risky and different. Carol Vielba, one of the dynamic young women involved in the 1960s, recalls feeling that Toc H's existing members seemed to view the involvement of young volunteers as being *'like guitars in church'*. It is certainly true – and a condemnation of the movement's attitude to change – that it has taken us almost 25 years to respond properly to the implications of our successful project programme and only recently has Toc H begun to take seriously the question of how best to incorporate project volunteers into a movement whose structures were developed to meet the needs of local branch members.

'the movement's administrative structures remain largely branch-based'

The 1986 Central Council decision to place a high priority on project work, the establishing of the National Projects sub-Committee and the appointment of four project development officers and both regional and national project coordinators, together with the establishment of the Central Branch and the 1987 redefinition of what constitutes a Toc H branch, are all changes prompted by an overdue recognition that projects and the volunteers who go on them are an essential part of the present and future health of Toc H. Despite the fact that projects have now been part of Toc H for a third of its history, the movement's administrative structures remain largely branch-based. It will surely not be long before a wholesale reassessment of the way the movement is structured becomes necessary. This will be neither better nor worse than the traditional branch structure. It will simply be different and more appropriate for the majority of new people now becoming involved with us.

As well as the beginnings of wider structural change in Toc H as a whole, positive change is also starting to happen in the planning and running of projects themselves. The National Projects sub-Committee has produced sound project standards for the movement by drawing on the experience of practitioners around the regions, and a common training programme is emerging for these volunteers who show the potential to become project leaders. In these ways the best of what has already been happening in the first 25 years of projects should be maintained and shared with those who are newly taking on responsibility.

There are other important developments required too, however, and not surprisingly these are changes from which all expressions of Toc H would benefit, not just the project scene. First a

deliberate attempt is needed to broaden our mixture of volunteers. There is nothing wrong in attracting young, white, well-educated volunteers but we do need to add others to enrich the mixture. Secondly, further exploration is needed of the relationship between Toc H and Christianity. I would argue that projects at their best provide a profound experience of Christian values in action and that over a period of time significant numbers of volunteers are drawn to wrestle with fundamental questions of purpose and meaning in their lives. For some this exploration begins in the course of their Toc H project. For others it would have been happening anyway but may be deepened by their involvement with Toc H, and for yet others it may never become an issue of importance. I believe it is vital to create an atmosphere where people, especially those for whom things spiritual may be a virtual 'no-go area', can explore this part of themselves if they wish to, but I do not see the purpose of projects as being in any sense 'to produce Christians'.

Similarly, nor does the aim of project work seem to me to be 'to produce Toc H members'. Such statistics as we possess indicate that if this is the purpose, we are failing dismally. What we surely should be doing, however, is ensuring that the care we profess to have for each individual during a project is not simply cut off abruptly when the project is over. Providing further opportunities for volunteers to become involved in projects and other aspects of Toc H, keeping them informed, inviting them to build and reflect on their experience and actively seeking to give them responsibility need to be much higher priorities than they have sometimes been in the past. Part of the outcome of such a policy would inevitably be that more volunteers would extend their involvement with Toc H and that some of them would choose to become members. However, for many young people Toc H quite properly provides a development period through which they move on their way to other things. This is a success in itself and has in fact been part of the experience of all healthy expressions of Toc H throughout the movement's history.

As our older members die out we must not be pushed into viewing 'membership' as the goal of project work. Rather than looking for large numbers of volunteers making a life-long commitment to Toc H, the movement should judge success by the numbers influenced to go out into the world with a life-long commitment to other people.

■ Philip Douch is a Toc H Development Officer in the South Western Region, based at Lindridge House. He is the author of a new booklet about projects *'A Model for Living'*, shortly to be produced by Toc H.



Photo: The Huddersfield Examiner

1969: Toc H volunteers chat with a young patient at White Windows Cheshire Home, during a ten day project.



Photo: Quentin Rees.

1988: Philip Douch is seen here at a children's fun day which he organised as part of the Task Force '88 project in South Devon.

Project News

Share a Pair of Eyes

Bob Brown, of Merseyside District, writes about a project which not only gave a week of pleasure to 14 blind people, but was also put out 'on the air'...

For several years our district had arranged holidays in North Wales, on a canal barge, and in the Lake District, for mentally and physically handicapped youngsters. These had been led by a member, younger than most of us, who now lives in Scotland and is concentrating her activities up there. This made us re-think our capabilities. We were made aware that some visually handicapped people had not had a holiday for a number of years because they had no one to take care of them in strange surroundings. We decided to explore the need and found it



Photo: Bob Brown

Shirley Mann of the BBC talking with Lil Carrington, a member of Bromborough Toc H, who's been blind from birth.

to be very real. Therefore we organised a project to Alison House in Derbyshire, which involved 14 nationally recruited volunteers and 14 'guests', including a guide dog, a married couple and several people with other disabilities – two in fact had wheelchairs.

Each day we tried to do something which would appeal to everybody. Our trips out included places like the National Tramway Museum at Crich, a trip on the cable car up to the Heights of Abraham and a tour of the old Arkwright Mill.

Perhaps the highlight of the week, however, was a barge trip where we were joined by a BBC interviewer who took recordings which were broadcast on the Radio 4 programme 'In Touch' and also on Radio Merseyside.

Guests and volunteers enjoyed the week and got on very well together. On the last day there were some tearful partings, making it obvious that the project had been worthwhile and an experience from which we had all benefited.

Beyond Capabilities?

Betty Whyatt has been a member of Margate Ladies Branch since 1980. She is now also the secretary of the Thanet Project Committee, which this year organised the district's first project for 20 years. Here she describes how a relatively quiet 'Toc H patch' has been regenerated by the challenge of setting up a summer camp for deprived youngsters.

When Long Term Volunteer Philip Walker encouraged Thanet District to organise a summer project, none of us was very enthusiastic. He was talking about a camp for deprived children and it was over 20 years since we'd attempted anything like that. Most of our members are well over retirement age and our district only contains five small branches. It seemed beyond our capabilities; who would run the project? Where would the money come from? And how would we get hold of the equipment?

A district meeting was organised, to which we invited one of the Project Development Officers, Mick Tierney, and the prospective leader of our camp, Steve Walker. The idea was sold to the branches, who went away determined to raise the required sum of money. A committee was formed and those who sat on it each took responsibility for a specific aspect of the project. Gradually the pieces fell into place: we got our volunteers through the project booklet; social services referred 12 boys from underprivileged homes; a camp site was found, as was a minibus and the camping equipment. Meanwhile, the branches and the committee were approaching local firms and national trusts for money, as well as organising their own fund-raising ventures. Their



Volunteers and boys from the Thanet Summer Camp enjoy a game of cards under canvas.

efforts brought in an amazing £2,500 (approx) – well over the set target!

When I visited the camp site on the last night, two of the boys told me they were going back to high rise flats, one on the 15th floor. Another said, with a glowing face, "I could just run through these trees forever". Was it worth it? There's your answer. We are now looking forward to our second summer camp next year. If any district is hesitating about trying a project – well it's surprising how kind and helpful people are and what Toc H members can do once they get stuck in. So why not go for it?

Betty Whyatt



Visiting the Margate Caves

Photos: Jackie Lane

THE 1988 COMPETITION



Toc H member Edith Williams helps to run the Eston Friendship Circle which is part of Webb House. She's just returned from a holiday in Canada where she wore her 25 years of projects T-shirt and persuaded two 'mounties' – Constables Brent Lynn and Ray Petelle – to pose for this photograph.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ and now for the WINNER!

Over the past few months, many of our readers have entered into the spirit of the competition and sent in photos of Toc H T-shirt wearers across the globe. Choosing an overall winner was very difficult but we decided that first prize must go to Timothy Pantlin, who had his photo taken in the most unusual circumstances – with Mount Everest in the background. He will be receiving an Atlas of the world in due course.

All entrants will be sent a 25 Years of Project Sweat Shirt, to take pride of place in their wardrobes. Thank you to everybody who took time to send us a photo and make the competition so interesting.



Photo: Peter Wilson

Developing culinary skills during the 'Bananas in Barry' playscheme, South Wales.

The Problem with Projects!

Martin Rivett, a former member of the National Projects sub-Committee, offers advice to those involved in project planning.

The Broadlands District of Toc H in East Anglia considers itself rather like a 'Goldilocks' with respect to its project activities – the 'three bears' being the three regular problems which seem to beset all projects: accommodation, transport and money. The accommodation for our projects has been church halls, youth clubs and the Toc H centre at Mundesley. Whilst Mundesley House has proved an excellent base for our fully residential projects, it means that because helpers and the helped are all living together, the volunteers have very little time to get to know each other. In 1982

we used a church hall – but this had no hot water and we spent all our time boiling kettles. Also, one of our volunteers discovered in the middle of the night that the roof leaked directly over her sleeping bag! Until recently, our projects have used a local youth club – but then came a ruling from the fire service that youth clubs are too dangerous to sleep in!

Eventually, no doubt we shall find the ideal venue . . . but at a price, and this will lead us to another problem – that of money. I can offer the advice to other organisers that sending out hundreds of letters to local firms appealing to their generosity, isn't usually worth the effort. We have received some small sums in this way but also some very odd donations. We were given two bus rover tickets when we asked for help with a project whose members numbered 30! And when we needed food, some throat lozenges . . . and two vinegar jars. Fortunately, we have lately been able to get help from the

BBC Children in Need Appeal and the Royal Jubilee Trusts, and so money is not such a problem as it was.

The final dilemma which always confronts us, is to do with transport. Either we have minibus drivers raring to go but cannot track down any minibuses for love or money, or we have vehicles waiting to be driven but no drivers. Minibuses tend to be easy to get hold of even if they have to be hired commercially – though this soon eats into a project budget – but the insurance maze provides yet more problems. Generally vehicles owned by other charities for which we make a donation rather than giving a hiring fee have been the easiest option.

I must admit that it is quite challenging to try to solve these various problems, but at times I wonder why I ever got involved with project administration . . . wasn't it nicer just to be a volunteer?

Your Starter...

Norah Anderson
and Adrian Marshall



The Webb House – Ucauduit project group

Trying to get a mix of volunteers on projects is not as easy as it sounds, as many of you will know from experience. It is hard to know where to start. Then when we have approached people they may be interested at first but the results can seem small or even non-existent.

It may be useful to consider just what we are asking of people. We expect them to be mobile, willing to live in new surroundings for a time (which we often assume all young people are) have trust in Toc H, and a lot of self-confidence to meet new people and new situations. It may be a combination of these factors that stops some potential volunteers from even considering a project. We tried a project recently which was aimed at volunteers who knew Toc H but had not considered being more involved. In Newcastle at the Ucauduit project, a centre for the local unemployed, the project booklets received for many years have never had an impact, as people have not seen them as relevant. Webb House, (a resource centre for mental health) in Middlesbrough, has problems convincing their members that projects were worthwhile. It was decided to set up a starter project for these two groups as an attempt to show what a project was like but within safer boundaries than the usual projects in the booklet. This meant going away to the countryside with a group made up of two smaller sub-groups who did not know each other.

We found people who were interested from Ucauduit and Webb House, and set about planning and fundraising. This required a strong level of commitment from the beginning as everyone realised that it was *their* project and that if it was going to work everyone's commitment was vital. It was made clear everyone was there on an equal basis, and had to join in all the activities. We stayed at the

Colsterdale centre, in beautiful weather, visiting the local area. It was also stressed that the two groups which had worked separately and not met until we got on the project must be willing to get to know each other and work together. Barriers were soon broken down as everyone mixed in and soon became close friends, feeling they knew these "strangers" better than people they had known at home for years. Numbers were smaller than we had expected as many still felt unsure about coming on such a venture but those who came took back with them enthusiasm which speaks stronger than anything else as an advert for Toc H projects.

The long term result has been greater than anyone imagined. Some have gone on projects as individuals. A Toc H group has been set up in Middlesbrough which is planning a residential event to help clean and paint the Colsterdale centre. Another joint weekend has also taken place involving more people, when we took local children out.

This could be seen as one isolated success story. But it seems a useful way forward, as we talk about involving new volunteers, to look where Toc H is already known and then see what is feasible, instead of expecting others to fit in with our existing structure. Let's make it possible for others to join. A 'starter project' seems an ideal way of giving people an opportunity to try a project without making it so unsafe that it excludes people. Are there Toc H links in your area with groups that could be pursued in a similar way?

■ *Norah Anderson is a Project Development Officer based in Newcastle. Adrian Marshall is an LTV based at Webb House.*

your letters

Staff Editorial Office
Finnish Club
Leeds
Box 1022 88T

We reserve the right to edit letters.
Only letters with full name and address
will be considered for publication.

Sparkbrook

It is a pity that the letters about Sparkbrook (*Point 3*, August) are the only response you have had to Sue Biggerstaff's article (June). I was impressed by the realism of the article and would like to congratulate you on bringing attention to an area where Toc H can do a real service.

WOTCH (The Toc H group based in Wednesfield) had regular contact with Tom McNamee. We were involved in several of his projects and were well aware of his dedication and commitment to the people of Sparkbrook – he made a lot of sacrifices and Toc H came before everything. We find it very hard to understand why Toc H did not give him more support. The Telethon day mentioned in the article was excellent – there were lots of enquiries about Toc H and it was a brilliant opportunity to promote its work. Yet we and the 'Sparkbrook lads' (from St Basil's Hostel for homeless men) were the only Toc H people there.

book review

Flanders Guide

*A Guide to the Western Front
A Companion for Travellers*

Victor Newburg

Penguin £6.99

The publication by Penguin of this new guide book is an identification of the growing interest in visiting the battlefields of the First World War. Most visitors will find it more useful, though much less comprehensive, than Rose Coombs' *Before Endeavours Fade*. A brief introduction to the war, and to the realities of life and death for the men at the front, is followed by three detailed itineraries covering the Ypres Salient. These provide directions for finding the main sites, including of course Talbot House, and helpful comments on each. For those with time to travel further there are similar itineraries for Vimy Ridge and the battlefields of the Somme. The book is well illustrated with

Toc H has come to a standstill in Sparkbrook now that Tom has finished as a Long Term Volunteer. We find this very sad as Toc H was recognised in the area. Tom has reached the Islamic and Irish sections of the community, amongst others. Toc H involvement has also been recognised by the Warden Manor Award Scheme, which has granted £500 for work with youth there. What a waste of two year's hard work and dedication. We would like to thank Tom for showing us what real 'service' is, for the encouragement which he gave us all and for giving us an insight into what the Toc H challenge is all about.

Julie Handy
Secretary, WOTCH

Point 3's New Look

Last week this branch spent an evening discussing the new format of *Point 3*. We agreed that the magazine is good value for money and that the contents are interesting and well worth reading. The recent editorials and articles have stimulated much discussion at branch meetings when we have had a *Point 3* evening. The layout makes them easy to read and they are well illustrated. There are very few printing errors. One regret was the lack of articles recently by the Bordon Company, and we would like to see them reinstated or replaced by something similar.

L J Brooke
Chairman
Durdam Down Branch

Caged Spirit?

I do not believe that the constitution and Royal Charter of Toc H cage its spirit (*Point 3*, July). I have been a member since 1923 and as I understand it, members are pledged to pass on the Toc H spirit to the younger generation. We are also pledged to give fellowship and service to our friends and neighbours, the aged, children, handicapped etc, who need help of some sort or another. In the Toc H initiation ceremony (which is optional and now, I think, little used) the lamp was lit by unselfish sacrifice; it was maintained by unselfish service; service was seen as the rent we pay for our room on earth. As I see it, the spirit of Toc H is lived out by individual members, branches and projects through the Four Points, prayers and so on. So the spirit is not caged but is as free as air to do its work. As members of Toc H we are pledged to build the Kingdom of God on earth and to act as channels of love, joy and peace.

Charles Brownjohn
Bexhill-on-Sea

Dealing with Crime

I write in response to your editorial in the August edition of *Point 3*. As a magistrate, I am one of those people in society who has the responsibility of acting on behalf of the community, and of deciding, often as a very last resort, that prison is where a particular individual should be both for his sake and for the wider good. I stress the need to consider both the victim and

the criminal - too often we forget that there is a victim.

Secondly, I firmly believe that if we were to have a better ordered family life, with discipline at home, at school and in society as a whole, much of our crime would be nipped in the bud. The time for soft options and platitudes has gone; the problem is now too serious for these solutions. In addition, the courts must be given the right tools by parliament. Compassion is appropriate in some circumstances, but when firmness is required let us not flinch from doing our duty in the wider interest and for the protection of the law abiding citizen.

I look forward to seeing in future editions of *Point 3* what other people feel we should do in this crime-filled age before we all crash together.

Geoffrey J Heathcock JP
Cambridge

Cricket and the Lamp

The Independent cricket correspondent, Martin Johnson, has compared the performance of the England cricket team this season to a Toc H lamp. Having seen them play I can assure *Point 3* readers that Mr Johnson's conclusions were totally wrong. The Toc H lamp and all it symbolises are, to coin a phrase, light years ahead of the English cricket team, its selectors and administrators.

Terry Gray
Harpenden

APOLOGIES: HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

The more observant readers will have noticed on page 7 of the October *Point 3* (line 5) that we must all be mad! The Hon Treasurer was in fact calling for a real effort to be *made*.

Also, the last two double underlined figures at the bottom of page 8 should have been: 429,894 and 279,906.

contemporary photographs and cartoons, and there are useful suggestions for further reading. Warmly commended.

Ken Prideaux-Brune

■ Ken Prideaux-Brune is the International Officer.

SERVICES FOR DISARMAMENT

Reverend William Elliott, a member of Toc H in the North West Region, is actively involved in the World Disarmament Campaign (UK). He writes about a Weekend of Services for Disarmament which is planned for January 1989.

Encouraged by the signing of the INF Treaty between the Soviet Union and the USA, the World Disarmament Campaign (UK) has a more ambitious target than usual for its 1989 Weekend of Services and Vigils, to be held on 28/29 January.

In addition to the annual appeal to churches of all denominations in the United Kingdom, approaches are being made to a number of churches and Christian Peace Groups overseas to arrange services during the weekend. Everywhere in the world, people are appealing to their governments to stop the arms race and to use their resources more effectively to overcome the poverty

and injustices affecting so large a part of the human race. This too was the message contained in a commendation of this year's Weekend of Services and Vigils, sent to WDC by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council.

'In a world marked by conflict, violence and injustices' they said 'Christians must continually pray and work for peace' It is to that end that the Churches Section of the World Disarmament Campaign confidently calls upon Christians throughout the world to join together in common acts of worship during the weekend of 28/29 January, 1989. A suggested Order of Service and supporting material will be available towards the end of September and will gladly be sent on request. Please write to: The Churches Officer, Rev Will Elliott, 3 Rowcliffe Avenue, Chester CH4 7PN. (Please enclose large s.a.e.)

branch news

Huddersfield Day of Festivities

The Toc H North-East Regional Service took place in August at Huddersfield Parish Church. Following afternoon tea, members from across the region attended an evening of music at the Town Hall, where the Brighthouse & Rastrick Brass Band appeared with the Gledholt Male Voice Choir. They were accompanied by the Rev Alan Johnson on the organ. At the close of the concert, Director John Mitchell spoke about the work Toc H has done in the past and of its hopes for the future.

Joint Success!

After 46 years of active life, the membership of **Hednesford Men's Branch** gradually dwindled to just four people. All efforts to try and replace those who had died or moved away proved unsuccessful and the branch's future looked uncertain. Then came the C.E.C.'s ruling that branches containing fewer than four members should cease to function. Rather than let that happen, those who remained in the Hednesford Toc H Branch decided to invite their wives to become members, so creating a joint branch. As many of the ladies had been involved over the years anyway, they saw it as a logical move and quickly agreed. Dave Clark writes: *"It won't bring any more finance but it might save the day and keep a branch at Hednesford."*



Members and workers from Webb House in Cleveland ran a stall at the Middlesbrough Festival in June and raised a total of £112

Summer School

For the past four years, Cyril Carrier (Chairman of the North Wales/North West Region) has organised a 'Summer School' at Alison House in Derbyshire. This year's theme was 'Generations Working Together - Stepping stones to the Common Experience of the Eternal Realities'. The first thought-provoking session of the week was led by Ann Morisy of the Derby Diocesan Board of Social Responsibility. The remaining ones were led by Rev. Bob Knight of Toc H Southern Region. Meanwhile, afternoons were left free for people to explore the surrounding countryside.

Why not think of joining us next year? If you don't mind exercising your brain as well as enjoying the good fellowship found in Toc H, then it's worth a try. We certainly wouldn't miss it!

Dennis & Jean Fielding,
Sheaf Group (Sheffield)

points <<<<<<

Wellington Branch recently manned a 'Charity Stall' on the town's market. The stall is intended for use by charitable organisations and is set up courtesy of the local council. By the end of the morning, the Toc H members had sold £200 worth of bric-a-brac.

Margate Ladies' Branch enjoyed a coffee morning and bring and buy sale at the home of one of its members, which was attended by over 70 people. A sum of £240 was raised.

Bournemouth and Christchurch Joint Branch have presented a cheque for £2000 to the New Bournemouth Hospital. The money will purchase a non-invasive blood pressure monitoring machine.

Swannington Toc H ladies would like to thank Connie Boot and her husband Tony for all the help they've given over many years. The couple are retiring to Scartho but Connie is transferring her membership to a branch in the Grimsby area.

The New Group Branch was recently host to a coach load of disabled people and their helpers from North Hinksey. They were assisted by some of the pupils from Park House School who had just completed a 3 day sponsored walk and raised £900 for a heart monitoring machine.

Bridlington Toc H Action Group recently did a project at the Colsterdale Centre with 10 children, referred by the N.S.P.C.C. Trips out included Aysgarth Falls, Richmond Castle and Brimham Rocks.

South East Kent Toc H provided a week's holiday for 18 boys and girls with mental and physical handicaps. Local members and volunteers from Kent and London took the children out to places like Folkestone fun fair and Leeds Castle.



Photo: Sue Biggerstaff

This year's Great Straight Charity Raft Run was the most successful yet, with more than 60 entries setting out from Port Dinorwic near Bangor, and sailing down the strait to finish at the Menai Bridge. Toc H entered two rafts, one of which is pictured here being carried down the beach by its crew of national volunteers. The event raised money for charity through sponsorship and other fundraising activities.

3 date

new members

The following new members were registered during August/September:

Miss Rebecca Harvey, Miss Janet E Evans (Bracknell Action Grp Branch)
Mrs Catherine B Anderson,
Miss Kathleen B Anderson (Bramley J)
Mrs Norah Balls (Caister J)
John Rhodes (Central)
Mrs Freda Wilcox (Glen Parva W)
Mrs A Barton, Mrs Nell Browning,
Miss Gladys Logue (Heathfield J)
Reginald E Coomes (Melton & Charnwood District)
Mrs Hilary R Wolf (Rushden Pytchley W)
Mrs Cissie Abrahams, Mrs B M Fenton,
Mrs Dorothy Hellewell, Mrs Blanche Scott,
Mrs Florrie Welch (Thurcroft (Rotherham) J)

Welcome to 17 new members.

welcome

to Philip Walker, who has been appointed as Development Officer (South East).
to Michael Tomlinson, the new despatch and stock control person at HQ.
to Marilyn Young, who is now the Compositor at HQ.
to Stephen Coldbreath, who recently started work as the Assistant Warden at Cuddesdon House.

obituaries

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In July

Arthur H Hancock (Buckingham)

In August

Helen Benbow (Tunbridge Wells District)
Amy Cheers (Maghull)
Frank Cosford (Wellingborough)
Kathleen A Donovan (Cambridge)
Thomas Darling (Bedlington)
Herbert W A Gamble (Long Eaton)
Robert H Garrick (Cleveland District)
C H W 'Con' Lasper (Knowle M)
Ruby W Osborne (Fleet)
John O L Wrigley (Lindley M)

In September

Peter M Black (Cheltenham J)
Joan Chamberlain (Richmond-Surrey)
Marjorie O Currie (Edinburgh Seventy Five J)
Henry S Dunn (Sunderland J)
Mrs M E Rosier (St Johns W)

Not previously recorded:

John A Whittingham (Western Approaches & Chiltern Vale District)
Robert R Stewart (Southampton District)

It is with a great sense of loss that Loughborough Joint Branch reports the death of George Cook. He served in Toc H in many ways: Branch Secretary, Treasurer, and Central Councillor. He did jobs unknown to many in his own quiet way. In short, George was a true gentleman and will be greatly missed especially by those who served and worked with him. We are all very sad at his passing.

SS

It is with a deep sense of loss that North Walsham Branch records the death of Rev Maurice Cuttell. As a young man he was persuaded by a friend to 'come and try Toc H' joining the Tower Hill Branch in 1926. It was here among the founder members and stalwarts of Toc H that he grew to love the movement which he served for 62 years. For Maurice, Toc H stood alongside all his many commitments as chaplain to local Men's Fellowship and Girls' Friendly Society groups, padre to the Actors' Union etc. He became a member and padre to both the Bradwell (M) and (W) and when Bradwell Men's Branch closed, he took membership in the Gorleston (J) Branch, eventually becoming their padre. Later he became the Broads & Lotheringland District's padre, until moving on to retirement. He joined the North Walsham Branch and served as branch and district padre, for a time also acting as their Central Councillor. Maurice was a man of invariable cheerfulness who lived out life to the fullest and who was held in the highest esteem by all those who knew him.

TWS

Olive Hayward was a devoted member of Toc H, first in Carshalton Branch and latterly of the South East District Branch. Over the years she worked at Crutched Friars, helped despatch *The Log* and ran the literature stall at Central Council. She will be greatly missed.

JFP

We in Hartley Wintney Branch have said farewell to Harry Barlow. Harry was a lifelong resident of the village, an accomplished tradesman until his retirement and was a loyal member of St John's Church. Within the family of Toc H, Harry left us in no doubt as to what the spiritual aspect of the movement meant to him and we have treasured memories of his quiet disposition, great sense of humour and his great interest in local and general knowledge. We give thanks for his life.

VAC

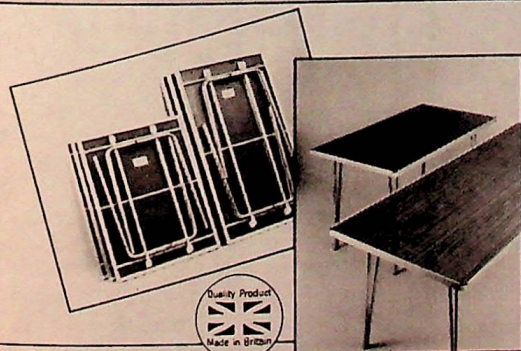
Gordon Kirby was a member of Syston Branch since 1960. During World War II he had served as a Royal Marine Commando and took part in the D-Day landings of 1944. A written account of his experiences won him a meeting with the Queen in 1984. Gordon was a very likable fellow and will be sadly missed.

FC

Kenneth Walls, of Lytham St Annes' Toc II had been involved in the life of the movement for more than 50 years. During World War II he served in the Royal Corps of Signals. As a member of St Annes' Branch, he served as treasurer and every week for 20 years visited an old people's home, playing cards and dominoes with the residents. We give thanks for his life.

We give thanks for their lives.

Gopak Ltd FOLDING TABLES



- TWO WEEKS FREE TRIAL
- DIRECT FROM MANUFACTURER
- GENEROUS DISCOUNTS

Lightweight aluminium tables with maximum strength, minimum weight, attractive appearance and folding easily for compact storage. A wide range of sizes and colour tops is available.

Ideal indoors or outdoors for fund-raising events...

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS used nationwide in Schools, Church Halls, Clubs, Housing Associations, Hospitals... Please send for our FREE illustrated price-list with the opportunity to TRY A TABLE.

GOPAK LTD
FREEPOST,
Dept TOC,
Range Road,
Ilythe, Kent,
CT21 5BR
No stamp needed

Alternatively ring
0303 65751

Name
Address
Postcode TOC

small ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) plus VAT, to Point Three Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 1 Forest Close, Wendover. Telephone: 0296 623911.

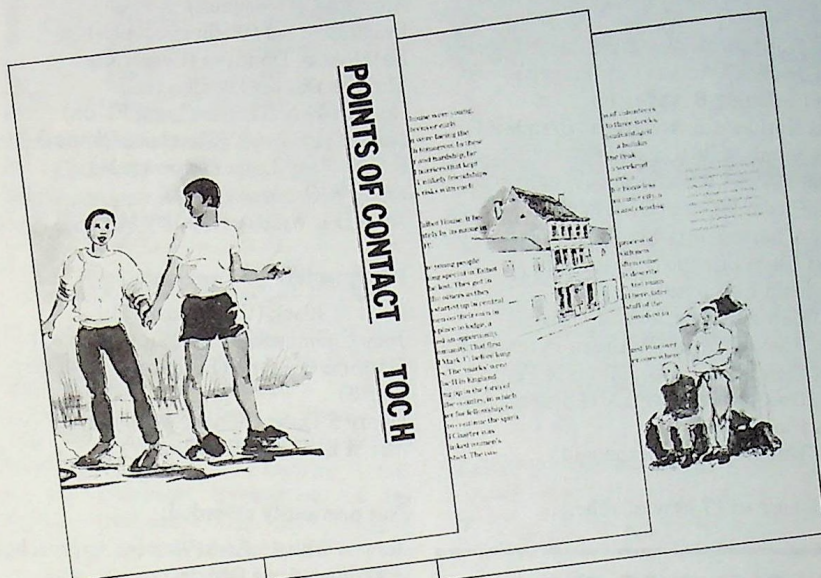
Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelities, Bradford BD3 8BT.

LOOK! new Toc H literature now available

This leaflet is printed in blue and black and is designed as an initial handout for those who know nothing about Toc H. It is ideal for placing in local libraries, youth clubs, churches or for giving away at public meetings. At the back, it contains a tear off slip which can be sent off for further information.



The new *Points of Contact* booklet goes into much more detail about Toc H's origins, activities and aims. It's for the enquirer who already knows the basics. Printed in red and black, it too contains a detachable



slip, requesting information on specific areas of Toc H work, eg friendship circles and residential centres. It also offers to put the reader in touch with a member of staff.

These are just the first in a whole new range of Toc H publicity material for the '80s and '90s, produced with the help of our consultants on publicity and PR, Criterion Communications.

Can *you* use them to advertise the movement to your friends, neighbours or colleagues?

They are **FREE** – you've got nothing to lose!

Write to: The Publicity Department, Toc H Headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP 22 6BT. (any contribution towards the high cost of postage would be gratefully received)



Prideaux House

The Community and Fellowship of
Friends Anonymous Service

Prideaux House is not a hotel, nor a boarding house, nor a hostel. It is the home of a community of people who have found their faith in God very real and relevant.

Our aim is to offer good quality accommodation in a homely atmosphere for that short break in London, near the West End, theatres, shops, museums and concerts. Ideally suited for persons attending conferences, courses, business meetings, interviews, and for those in need of relaxation. Perfect for groups or persons wanting peace and quiet.

Accommodation is offered in The Stanley Coulson Wing of our Community House and Centre in ten single (only) rooms, and all proceeds support our work in Hackney.

Each bedroom has a very high standard of furnishing with own wash-basin. There are good shower facilities, lounges, TV Room, small garden and the Community Chapel. Wholesome cooking is the norm. Sadly, accommodation is not suitable for children, smokers and persons on specific orthodox diets.

For further information contact:

The Rev Gualter R de Mello, Prideaux House, Ecumenical Interfaith Centre,
10 Church Crescent, London, E9 7DL. Telephone: 01 986 2233.

(If writing, state name of paper, quoting 'ACC/87'.)

ZIMBABWE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Toc H Zimbabwe seeks two volunteers to work in Harare for a year. Fares, accommodation and pocket money will be provided. Each of the volunteers will live in one of the two hostels for young men run by Toc H. They will be required to explore possible Toc H projects in Harare and to involve hostel residents and other young people in these projects. They must have experience of leadership of Toc H projects and/or young groups. They must be willing to commit themselves to a minimum of a year in Harare but the starting date is flexible. Because of the accommodation offered only male applicants can be considered. If you are interested in this opportunity please write in the first instance to:

Ken Prideaux-Brune, International
Officer, Toc H, 1 Forest Close,
Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks.
HP22 6BT – Tel: 0296 623911